

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for alerting a user of an incoming phone call, the method
2 comprising steps of:

3 receiving notification of the incoming phone call with an identifier
4 associated with the incoming phone call;
5 detecting the identifier associated with the incoming phone call;
6 correlating the identifier with a pre-recorded voice announcement; and
7 playing the pre-recorded voice announcement.

1 2. The method for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as
2 recited in claim 1, further comprising a step of receiving the pre-recorded announcement
3 for each phone call.

1 3. The method for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as
2 recited in claim 1, wherein the step of correlating the identifier comprises at least one of
3 the following steps:

4 correlating a phone number with a pre-recorded voice announcement;
5 correlating a portion of the phone number with a pre-recorded voice
6 announcement; and
7 correlating a caller ID name with a pre-recorded voice announcement.

1 4. The method for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as
2 recited in claim 1, further comprising steps of:
3 recording the pre-recorded voice announcement; and
4 receiving a selection that helps correlates the pre-recorded voice
5 announcement to the identifier.

1 5. The method for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as
2 recited in claim 4, further comprising a step of storing the pre-recorded voice
3 announcement with consumer phone equipment.

1 6. The method for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as
2 recited in claim 1, further comprising a step of interrupting a phone call to play the pre-
3 recorded voice announcement.

1 7. The method for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as
2 recited in claim 1, wherein the playing step comprises playing the pre-recorded voice
3 announcement with an earpiece.

1 8. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable
2 instructions for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as recited in claim 1.

1 9. A method for alerting a user of an incoming phone call, the method
2 comprising steps of:

3 recording a voice announcement;

4 receiving a selection that helps correlate the pre-recorded voice
5 announcement to an identifier;

6 receiving notification of the incoming phone call that indicates the
7 identifier associated with the incoming phone call;

8 detecting the identifier associated with the incoming phone call;

9 correlating the identifier with a voice announcement; and

10 playing the voice announcement.

1 10. The method for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as
2 recited in claim 9, further comprising a step of receiving the announcement for each
3 phone call.

1 11. The method for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as
2 recited in claim 9, wherein the step of correlating the identifier comprises at least one of
3 the following steps:

4 correlating a phone number with a voice announcement;

5 correlating a portion of the phone number with a voice announcement; and

6 correlating a caller ID name with a voice announcement.

1 12. The method for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as
2 recited in claim 9, further comprising a step of storing the voice announcement with
3 consumer phone equipment.

1 13. The method for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as
2 recited in claim 9, further comprising a step of interrupting a phone call to play the voice
3 announcement.

1 14. The method for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as
2 recited in claim 9, wherein the playing step comprises playing the voice announcement
3 with a speaker separate from an earpiece.

1 15. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable
2 instructions for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as recited in claim 9.

1 16. Telephone equipment for announcing phone calls with a pre-
2 recorded voice announcement, the telephone equipment comprising:
3 a sound digitizer that converts a sound to the pre-recorded voice
4 announcement;
5 a caller ID function that detects an identifier associated with an incoming
6 phone call;
7 a correlator that associates the identifier with the pre-recorded voice
8 announcement; and
9 a speaker that plays the pre-recorded voice announcement after the pre-
10 recorded voice announcement is correlated to the identifier.

1 17. The telephone equipment for announcing phone calls with a pre-
2 recorded voice announcement as recited in claim 16, further comprising an announcement
3 storage database that stores the pre-recorded voice announcement.

1 18. The telephone equipment for announcing phone calls with a pre-
2 recorded voice announcement as recited in claim 16, wherein the announcement storage
3 database is remotely located with respect to a location of the speaker.

1 19. The telephone equipment for announcing phone calls with a pre-
2 recorded voice announcement as recited in claim 16, further comprising a web interface
3 for receiving at least one of a criterion and a voice announcement.

1 20. The equipment for announcing phone calls with a pre-recorded
2 voice announcement as recited in claim 16, wherein an earpiece comprises the speaker.